

Application No.: 09/974,593

Docket No.: JCLA8091

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully amendments to claims 1 and 6 were made according to the originally filed specification. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims 1-7 should be clearly distinguished over the prior art, and should be allowable.

In the amended claims, at least when the carrier starts moving from the first position to the second position, the holding device holds the front end in the insertion direction from the central-front portion of the disc-shaped recording medium, and does not hold a portion of the disc-shaped recording medium in an eject direction. In this status, the carrier starts moving. Therefore, the carrier can transfer the disc from the initial stage of the disc insertion.

In the cited reference, at the time point when the carrier starts moving from the first position to the second position, the holding device holds a portion of the recording medium in the insertion direction, and additionally, a portion of the recording medium in the eject direction. Therefore, claims 1-7 of the present invention are clearly distinguishable from the cited reference, and should be allowed.

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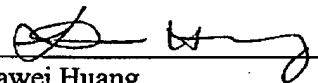
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believe that all pending claims 1 -7 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

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Respectfully submitted,
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